

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-20 EB-11 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00 AGR-20

SWF-02 SIL-01 LAB-06 SCI-06 HEW-08 L-03 DRC-01 /140 W

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R 020900Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2613

INFO USUN NEW YORK 959

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

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PARIS FOR UNESCO; ROME FOR FODAG; VIENNA FOR IAEA AND UNIDO;
MONTREAL FOR ICAO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, UNDP, BG

SUBJ: CERP 0008-EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

REF: A. STATE 42239; B. STATE 64026; C. DACCA A-28, APRIL 24 73
(NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: UNDP HAS FORMALLY EXISTED IN BANGLADESH FOR LESS THAN ONE YEAR. RESREP HAS PLAYED NO REAL ROLE EITHER FORMALLY OR INFORMALLY AS A COORDINATOR OF OTHER DONOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE INPUTS, LARGELY BECAUSE HE HAS AWAITED COMPLETION (LAST MONTH) OF UNDP'S COUNTRY PROGRAM PLAN. CANNOT COMMENT ON EFFECTIVENESS OF ON-GOING ACTIVITIES BECAUSE FEW PROJECTS UNDERWAY. USMISSION'S IMPRESSION RE UNDP RESREP'S COORDINATION ROLE WITH OTHER UN FAMILY HEADS IS LIMITED. END SUMMARY.

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1. SUBJECT REPORT KEYED TO SUBPARAS A THROUGH G OF PARA 5 IN REF A:

(A) ROLE OF UNDP IN UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM-IN PAST MEETINGS UNDP RESREP HAS STATED HE AND HIS STAFF HAVE SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME SINCE UNDP/BD FORMALLY REESTABLISHED APRIL 1973, WITH PREPARATION FIRST COUNTRY AND INTER-COUNTRY PROGRAMMING DOCUMENT. USMISSION PRESENTED COPY OFFICIALLY ON MARCH 5, 1974 (COPIES WERE POUCHED WASHINGTON). OUR IMPRESSIONS ARE LIMITED ON COORDINATION ROLE RESREP PLAYS WITH OTHER UN FAMILY HEADS, ALTHOUGH RESREP STATES HE CONSIDERS HIMSELF CLEARLY IN CHARGE. MISSION HAS HEARD NEITHER POSITIVE NOR NEGATIVE COMMENTS BY BDG OFFICIALS RE RELATIONSHIP WITH RESREP. ASSUME RELATIONSHIP GOOD, PARTIALLY DUE PERFORMANCE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF OPERATIONS BANGLADESH (UNROB) FOR WHICH RESREP SERVED AS DEPUTY CHIEF. FOLLOWING ARE OUR IMPRESSIONS OF RESREP'S RELATIONSHIP TO RESIDENT UN ORGANIZATIONS, AS IDENTIFIED:

(I) UNICEF-ASSUME RELATIONSHIP GOOD BECAUSE OF BOTH UNICEF'S AND UNDP RESREP'S INVOLVEMENT TOGETHER IN MASSIVE RELIEF EFFORT. HAVE HEARD NO COMMENTS TO LEAD US TO BELIEVE OTHERWISE. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, UNICEF PARTICIPATED IN UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMMING DOCUMENT PREPARATIONS. FYI. USAID HAS ENJOYED GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH UNICEF IN FIELDS OF MUTUAL INTEREST, E.G., CHILD FEEDING AND POTABLE WATER WELL PROGRAMS. END FYI.

(II) FAO AND ILO-SINCE RESREP SUPPORTED SELECTION OF FAO'S ONLY RESIDENT STAFF MAN AS OFFICIAL FAO REPRESENTATIVE BELIEVE WORKING RELATIONSHIP PROBABLY GOOD. UNAWARE OF DEGREE OF COOPERATION BETWEEN RESREP AND ILO REP.

(III) WHO AND UNFPA-WHO REP AND WE UNDERSTAND NEW UNFPA HEAD DO NOT CONSIDER THEMSELVES SUBORDINATE TO RESREP.

(IV) IBRD-OUR STRONG IMPRESSION UNDP AND IBRD RELATIONSHIP FORMAL BUT LACKING CLOSE WORKING LIAISON. IBRD HAS HOSTED THREE OR FOUR MEETINGS IN PAST YEAR ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS TO WHICH ALL DONORS HAVE BEEN INVITED. UNDP HAS PARTICIPATED. AT ONE POINT, IBRD TALKED ABOUT CHAIRING MEETINGS ON FUNCTIONAL AREAS, E.G., FAMILY PLANNING, AGRICULTURE, TRAINING, ETC. WHICH FOR TA ACTIVITIES WOULD APPEAR MORE APPROPRIATELY TO BE RESPONSIBILITY OF UNDP. NO MEETINGS CALLED.

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(B) COORDINATION OF ALL EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE-RESREP STATES HE HAS NOT BEEN ABLE SO FAR TO PLAY THE COORDINATION ROLE HE DESIRES, ESPECIALLY RE OTHER DONOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES. RESREP PRESENTLY MEETING WITH RESIDENT MISSIONS TO PRESENT COPIES OF UNDP PROGRAM PLAN. UNDP HAS STARTED CIRCULATING BIWEEKLY LIST OF VISITORS, WHICH WE VIEW AS POSITIVE STEP TOWARD COORDINATION. USMISSION APPRECIATES FACT UNDP STAFF SMALL AND CONSIDERABLE STAFF TIME HAS BEEN DEVOTED TO PREPARATION OF PLAN BUT FEEL SOME ROLE COULD HAVE BEEN PLAYED IN AN ATTEMPT TO ENCOURAGE COORDINATION. TWO OTHER DONORS HAVE REPORTED TO MISSION OFFICER THAT THEY ARE SOMEWHAT (#)

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FORWARD ON COORDINATION RESPONSIBILITY DUE TO SENSITIVITIES OF THE BDG TOWARD SYNDROME OF DONOR GROUPS "GANGING-UP" ON HOST GOVERNMENT. ALSO, BDG IN MANY INSTANCES HAS REQUESTED MORE THAN ONE DONOR TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR THE SAME ACTIVITY. USMISSION HAS SUGGESTED ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF MEETINGS AT STAFF RATHER THAN SENIOR REPRESENTATION LEVEL COULD BE HELD ON SUBJECTS OF MUTUAL INTEREST, ESPECIALLY ROAD BLOCKS IN TA IMPLEMENTATION.

(C) COUNTRY PROGRAM REVIEWS-COUNTRY PROGRAM DOCUMENT FOR GOVERNING COUNCIL APPROVAL JUNE, WAS PROVIDED LAST MONTH TO USMISSION WITHOUT REQUEST FOR FORMAL COMMENTS. RESREP DID, HOWEVER, INDICATE HE WOULD WELCOME INFORMAL COMMENT. FYI. UNDP PLANNING DOCUMENT EVOLVED OUT OF MEETINGS WITH BDG'S PLANNING COMMISSION. PC KNEW OF OTHER DONOR ACTIVITY. OTHER DONORS WERE NOT QUERIED IF THEY ALSO INVOLVED

IN SAME ACTIVITIES WHICH UPON PUBLICATION OF DOCUMENT HAS BEEN FOUND TO BE THE CASE, POTENTIALLY LEADING TO DUPLICATION OF EFFORT. FURTHER COMMENT ON UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAM BEING PREPARED IN RESPONSE REF B. END FYI. NO ANNUAL REVIEW OF PROGRAMS YET CONDUCTED.

(D) APPRAISAL OF PROPOSED PROJECTS-USMISSION RECEIVED FIRST SUMMARY OF WHOLLY IN-COUNTRY PROJECT DIRECT FROM UNDP/BD TWO WEEKS AGO. UNDP STAFF INDICATES THEY WILL BE TRANSMITTING THEM TO ALL DONORS ON A REGULAR BASIS. FIRST WAS ON CIVIL AVIATION TRAINING-AREA WHERE USAID NOT ACTIVE. NO COMMENT NECESSARY.

(E) PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION-NEW PROJECTS STARTED ARE FEW; THEREFORE MISSION HAS NO BASIS TO COMMENT ON EFFECTIVENESS OF ON-GOING ACTIVITIES. UNDP PROGRAM ENVISAGES 150 TO 200 TECHNICIANS. BELIEVE THEY WILL FACE SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN FINDING SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF QUALIFIED COUNTERPARTS SINCE IT HAS BEEN OUR EXPERIENCE THAT MOST QUALIFIED GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED COUNTERPARTS FOR PROJECTS OF MORE THAN ONE DONOR. ADMINISTRATIVE AND LOGISTIC SUPPORT INCLUDING TRANSPORT AND HOUSING WILL BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT AND IS ALREADY PROVING TO BE HINDRANCE IN EFFECTIVE START OF OTHER DONOR PROGRAMS. US MISSION HAS RECOMMENDED TO RESREP THAT THIS SPECIFIC TOPIC WOULD BE USEFULLY DISCUSSED IN STAFF LEVEL MEETING, I.E., WHAT DONORS ARE DOING IN THE FACE OF THESE PROBLEMS.

(F) PROJECT EVALUATION-NEWLY INTRODUCED PROJECT EVALUATION SYSTEM BEING ESTABLISHED BY UNDP RESIDENT STAFF FOR APPLICATION TO PROGRAMS HERE. UNDP STAFF MEMBERS HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT USAID PROVISION OF TA TO HELP DESIGN BDG EVALUATION SYSTEM. NO RESREP ANNUAL REPORT YET WRITTEN.

(G) FOLLOW-UP WITH UNDP AND EXECUTING AGENCIES-NO RECOMMENDATIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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YET.

2. IN CONCLUSION, WE SENSE UN HAS RELATIVELY GOOD IMAGE AS VIEWED BY BDG BUT THAT MAJORITY OF THIS WAS EARNED FROM PRIOR PERFORMANCE OF UNROD AND UNROB. RESULTS, INDICATING EFFECTIVENESS, SUITABILITY OR EVEN POTENTIAL OF CURRENT ACTIVITIES AND/OR STAFF, ARE NOT YET EVIDENT.

DECONTROL MAY 31, 1975.

NEWBERRY

NOTE BY OC/T: DACCA 1448 (#)OMISSION. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, CERP 0008, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DACCA01448
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740072-1137
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740475/aaaacqrp.tel
Line Count: 212
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 42239; B. STATE 64026; C. D, ACCA A-28, APRIL 24 73
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <06 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CERP 0008-EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
TAGS: EAID, BG, UNDP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005